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***Construction Industry News from City Hall***

*Superintendent of Central Inspection  
Kurt Schroeder*

## **2006 International Mechanical Code Adopted**

On January 15, 2008, the City Council passed ordinances adopting the 2006 International Mechanical Code (IMC) and International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), with local amendments. These ordinances were published on Friday, January 18, 2008. Copies of the 2006 IMC and 2006 IFGC, and local amendments, are available for purchase in the Office of Central Inspection.

These ordinances apply to construction, remodeling and repair for everything other than 1 & 2-family residential buildings (the 2006 International Residential Mechanical Code for 1 & 2-family construction, remodeling and repair was adopted in late August 2007, and took effect in September 2007).

The new 2006 mechanical code ordinances became effective on February 4, 2008, for all mechanical permits issued on or after February 4<sup>th</sup> (mechanical permit number higher than MEC2008-000244).

With respect to Commercial Building Plan Review and project permitting, building plans may be submitted and reviewed under either the 2000 IMC, as locally amended, or the 2006 IMC, as locally amended, through March 31, 2008; such commercial building projects will be inspected per the building plans approved for the project by OCI.

## **ATTENTION GENERAL CONTRACTORS**

The 2006 Code now requires 90 mph windows and doors, including garage doors. The inspection will be in conjunction with the framing inspection.

All windows and doors shall show proof of being tested to the design pressure. Overhead garage doors shall show compliance by the manufacturer label certifying compliance to the specific load. The label shall contain:

- Manufacturers name
- Positive and negative test loads
- Drawing reference

Corresponding drawings must be placed in the vicinity of the garage door by the installer at the job site, or may be placed on the garage door prior to the framing inspection.

All overhead garage doors shall be framed with 2x6 SPF #2 or better. 2006 code does not require treated lumber around the garage door, but the lumber will need to be SPF #2 or better. The plates still need to be treated or use seal sealer. Only one plate will be required around the garage door. The sheeting needs to be solid sheeting down 4 feet from the opening. The wall beside the garage door can now go down to 22 ½ “ without Simpson ties if you are using the new City adopted Shear Wall Standards.

If you are using the new Shear Wall Standards adopted by the City of Wichita 2006 Code you do not need to call for the shear wall inspection. Any other type of shear wall application still requires an inspection.

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## **ATTENTION ALL CONTRACTORS**

### **Insurance Required**

Every contractor with the exception of Class D Maintenance and sign contractors must procure and maintain a policy of general liability insurance covering the activities of the contractor while engaged in contracting. Such insurance policy shall be written with an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Kansas and shall have minimum limits of coverage of three hundred thousand dollars per occurrence.

In addition, every such contractor shall procure and maintain workers' compensation insurance as required by law and automobile liability insurance as required by law.

Every contractor prior to the issuance of a license shall file with the Office of Central Inspection certificates of insurance evidencing the insurance coverage specified herein.

## Optional Stand-By Generators

Optional standby systems are typically installed to provide an alternate source of electric power for such facilities as commercial buildings and residences and to serve loads such as lighting, heating and refrigeration systems, data processing and communications systems, that, when stopped during any power outage, could cause discomfort, food loss, loss of work, or the like.

Each year we become more dependent on electricity for our home and business, as such permanently installed and portable generators are more in demand. For the safety of electricians, property owners and occupants, utility workers, etc., we need to make sure the generator and associated equipment are properly installed.

The first thing you need to discuss with your customer is what loads they want operational during a power failure. This will allow you to calculate the size of generator needed and the transfer switch that will be required. ***The City of Wichita requires the generator to be of sufficient size to handle ALL loads that are fed from the electrical panel fed from the generator.***

Let's start by wanting to install the transfer switch between the service meter and the main disconnect. The transfer switch, generator and all associated wiring and equipment must be sized to carry the entire load of the service. The transfer switch must also be listed as "suitable for use as service equipment".

If you are not transferring the entire load of the building, you will need to install a subpanel and move the circuits over to that panel that will be operational by the generator. The transfer switch will be installed in the feeder between the main electric panel and the subpanel.

Transfer equipment shall be suitable for the intended use and designed and installed so as to prevent the inadvertent interconnection of normal and alternate sources of supply in any operation of the transfer equipment.

The NEC also requires that a permanent sign shall be placed at the service-entrance equipment that indicates the type and location of on-site optional standby power sources. If you are installing a portable generator you will need to provide a male receptacle on the exterior of the building and it shall be labeled "portable generator connection only".

For questions on a specific installation, please contact Tom Kerschen, Steve Schauner or your area electrical inspector.

## **Reminder of Updates to the 2005 NEC**

To expand the level of AFCI protection for cord sets that are plugged into receptacles supplied by AFCI-protected branch circuits, the use of combination-type AFCI devices is required effective January 1, 2008.

Also effective January 1, 2008, a disconnecting means is required for the following types of fluorescent lights that can be serviced in place and are installed in other than a dwelling:

1. Fluorescent lights that utilize double ended lamps.
2. Fluorescent lights containing ballast and supplied from multiwire branch circuits.

The disconnect can be either inside or outside the fixture and must disconnect all supply conductors simultaneously, including the grounded conductor if one is provided.

Exceptions are provided for; hazardous locations, emergency illumination, cord-and-plug connected fixtures, industrial facilities, and fixtures not supplied by a multiwire branch circuit and in which disconnection does not leave the illuminated space in total darkness.

These will be required on jobs that permits were issued starting January 1, 2008.

*Tom Kerschen, Construction Administrator, Electrical | Elevator*

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## **Water Operated Sump Pump Back-up Systems**

The use of water operated back-up sump pump fixtures must be accompanied by appropriate backflow prevention of a high hazard classification, properly installed by licensed tradespersons with training corresponding to the protection devices utilized. Atmospheric vacuum breakers (hose bibb or pipe applied) must be installed with the device located a minimum of six (6) inches above all downstream piping or outlets with no downstream shut-off valves as required by chapter 21.12 of the Code of the City of Wichita.

Reduce Pressure Principal (RP) Backflow Preventers must be installed by Certified Testers registered with the Wichita Water Utility and tested upon installation and at least once per year thereafter. Testable backflow preventers are required to be rebuilt at least once every five years prior to the annual testing required as set forth in Code Section 21.12.120.

Although legal for installation in residential applications, residents and owners should be apprised of the additional risk of flooding incurred by the installation of the RP valve and the potential need for additional drainage or warning devices.

*Billie Vines, R.S., Cross Connection Mgr., Wichita Water Utilities (316) 219-8918*

# Neighborhood Housing Inspection adds Cell Phones in 2008

As of January 1, 2008, OCI's Housing Inspection section merged some of the services of Environmental Services, such as tall grass, bulky waste, and debris. For more information on this new merger go to [www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov).

In a continuing effort to enhance our delivery of customer service, the Housing Inspection section has also added cell phones.

*Listed below are the cell phone numbers for all OCI inspectors with cell phones.* Zoning is now the only code enforcement section that currently does not have cell phones.

|                   |            |          |                   |              |          |
|-------------------|------------|----------|-------------------|--------------|----------|
| Brown, Richard    | Building   | 871-6392 | Bascombe, Harlan  | Neighborhood | 312-5628 |
| Capello, Kortney  | Building   | 871-2063 | Beynon, Jane      | Neighborhood | 312-5013 |
| Davis, Lance      | Building   | 871-4292 | Bischoff, Donn    | Neighborhood | 312-5293 |
| Dill, Mike        | Building   | 871-4879 | Dealy, Nolan      | Neighborhood | 312-5693 |
| Garcia, Jim       | Building   | 871-2302 | Florence, Terrill | Neighborhood | 312-5927 |
| Hultman, Darlene  | Building   | 871-6830 | Fox, Leonard      | Neighborhood | 312-5970 |
| Jack, Richard     | Building   | 871-7459 | Godwin, John      | Neighborhood | 312-5384 |
| Lane, Kevin       | Building   | 871-6763 | Hackworth, Shane  | Neighborhood | 312-5403 |
| Mc Menomey, Tim   | Building   | 871-6459 | Hall, Keith       | Neighborhood | 312-5485 |
| Meier, Richard    | Building   | 871-6018 | Hamlin, Karen     | Neighborhood | 312-5998 |
|                   |            |          | Holley, Shannon   | Neighborhood | 807-0856 |
| Betts, Tim        | Electrical | 871-1790 | Irvin, Julie      | Neighborhood | 312-5557 |
| De Leon, Ismael   | Electrical | 871-6689 | Johnson, Andrea   | Neighborhood | 807-0949 |
| Kerschen, Tom     | Electrical | 871-2239 | Johnson, Dale     | Neighborhood | 807-1021 |
| Nordick, Chris    | Electrical | 871-6770 | Lleras, David     | Neighborhood | 807-1126 |
| Robinson, Bob     | Electrical | 871-6607 | Robertson, Wanda  | Neighborhood | 807-1143 |
| Schauner, Steve   | Electrical | 871-2622 | Rutledge, Dan     | Neighborhood | 807-1178 |
|                   |            |          | Schell, Michele   | Neighborhood | 807-1298 |
| Hood, Mike        | Elevator   | 806-0388 | Shauers, Debra    | Neighborhood | 807-1315 |
| Loveland, Bill    | Elevator   | 806-0709 | Stalkup, Jay      | Neighborhood | 807-1441 |
|                   |            |          | Vogt, Roger       | Neighborhood | 807-1520 |
| Nethercot, Stoney | Mechanical | 871-2964 |                   |              |          |
| Shores, Ron       | Mechanical | 871-6764 |                   |              |          |
|                   |            |          |                   |              |          |
| Grandstaff, Lee   | Plumbing   | 871-2820 |                   |              |          |
| Johnson, Keith    | Plumbing   | 871-2987 |                   |              |          |
| Laws, David       | Plumbing   | 871-4849 |                   |              |          |
| Ritter, Frank     | Plumbing   | 871-4539 |                   |              |          |
| Young, Roger      | Plumbing   | 871-4602 |                   |              |          |

# **OCI Mechanical & Plumbing Section Employment Opportunities**

OCI is currently accepting applications for two (2) supervisory positions and one (1) mechanical inspector position in its Plumbing & Mechanical inspection sections.

After Plumbing/Mechanical Inspection Administrator Dan Leidy's recent retirement, OCI has reorganized, and will now have both a Plumbing Inspection Administrator and a Mechanical Inspection Administrator. Each of these Inspection Administrator position vacancies is being advertised.

Inspection Administrator applicants should have extensive expertise in either plumbing or mechanical trades and codes, with at least master level training and certification in the primary trade area; good knowledge of mechanical or plumbing design practices; and some knowledge of general building construction. ICC or ICBO plumbing and/or mechanical inspection certification is preferred, and is required within the first 18 months of employment. Applicants should have education and training with courses in mathematics, engineering, administration, and/or technical courses appropriate to the plumbing and/or mechanical trade, at least four years experience in the plumbing or mechanical trade, and three years of supervisory experience. Any equivalent combination of experience and training may be considered.

Primary Inspection Administrator responsibilities include: (1) supervision of trade section inspectors; (2) plumbing or mechanical trade code review, interpretation and training; (3) product review and analysis; (4) staffing/management of the city's plumbing or mechanical board; (5) preparation of code amendment ordinances; (6) oversight of state mandated continuing bi-annual education accreditation/certification of plumbing and/or mechanical tradespersons; (7) working with other departments on code development and enforcement issues; and (8) effective communication with local plumbing, mechanical and/or sewer trade industries/associations.

The Inspection Administrator salary range is \$44,847 - \$82,487. The starting salary range is \$44,487 - \$63,667, DOQ.

OCI is also advertising to fill a recently vacated Mechanical Inspector I-III position. Entry level (Mechanical Inspector I) requires possession of a mechanical journeyman certificate plus one year of experience in inspection and/or code enforcement. Applicants must have ICC or ICBO Mechanical Inspector certification or be able to attain such certification within 12 months of employment. Any equivalent combination of experience and training may be considered.

The Mechanical Inspector I starting pay range is \$15.21 - \$17.17/hour, DOQ.

Employment applications must be filed online at [www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov) or in person in the Human Resources Department on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of City Hall, 455 N. Main Street. Human Resources is open Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., and their phone number is (316) 268-4531.

It is the declared policy of the City of Wichita to extend equal employment opportunities to all qualified persons in all occupations and all levels of occupation without regard to race, color, sex, religion, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age or disability except in bona fide occupational qualifications. The City of Wichita does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission to, access to, or treatment of individuals participating in any City program.

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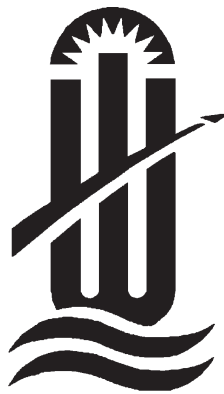
## **TELUS & E-Permits**

Contractors please remember that you can save yourself a call to OCI to schedule an inspection, by calling our **TELUS** phone scheduling system at **(316 337-9111)**; or by going to our website for **E-Permits** to schedule your inspections, or apply for trade or roofing and siding permits. *E-Permits use the same contractor number and password as the TELUS.* You can request an inspection for the same day up to 6:30AM. Very handy if you forgot to call in your inspection the day before.

**Avoid the long phone wait of calling our office.** We encourage you to use these modes of technology that we have in place for you. They are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. To request inspections or to check the status of permits or inspections go to <https://permits.wichita.gov>

Class D contractors have the ability to submit 1 & 2 family residential remodeling permits and/or roofing/siding permits in e-connect? If you have a license number and an assigned pin number to use TELUS you can use them to access E-permit. Class D contractors do not have to come to City Hall to obtain permits. You can do it online.

*Maria Bias, Administrative Services Division Supervisor*



CITY OF  
WICHITA

[www.wichita.gov](http://www.wichita.gov)



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